THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) No such complaint has been received in the Ministry.

(b) to (d) Question does not arise.

Scheduled caste status for Bangla speaking people in Uttarakhand

†703. **SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:**

(a) whether a lot of Bangla speaking social groups, having the status of Scheduled Caste in their original places and in West Bengal and Orissa have settled in Uttarakhand;

(b) if so, whether these communities have been asking for Scheduled Caste status for years and a proposal has been sent by the State Government to the Union Government supporting their demand; and

(c) if so, the number of occasions when such proposals were received and by when favourable decision would be taken on these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (c) Bengali speaking refugees migrated from the erstwhile East Pakistan (Now Bangladesh) and settled in the State of Uttarakhand. They did not have the status of Scheduled Castes in their original place.

However, the State Government of Uttarakhand sent a proposal to include Namasudra, Pond, Poundra and Manjhi communities in the list of Scheduled Castes. The proposal was returned to the State Government on 30.12.2003 alongwith the views of Registrar General of India. It is not poosible to indicate a time frame for a favourable decision.

Setting up of DDRCs in Madhya Pradesh

†704. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: **Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:**

(a) whether Government has received a proposal from Madhya Pradesh Government for setting up of District Disability Rehabilitation Centres (DDRCs) in all the districts of the State not having such Centres;

(b) if so, whether the proposal has been cleared;

(c) if not, the present status of the proposal and by when it would be cleared; and

(d) the names of districts cleared for setting up of DDRCs in the country during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A proposal to set up District Disability Rehabilitation Centres (DDRCs) in the unserved districts

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.